

val exists. This latter is spanned over in the living bird by a delicate band of fibrous tissue. In the genus *Buteo* a similar state of affairs obtains, and I present above a drawing of the pelvis of a specimen of *B. borealis calurus*, offering an aspect from which the point I refer to, may be seen. This figure happens to be taken from a skeleton of this bird, which I have recently forwarded to the Museum of the University of Edinburgh. Some of the representatives of the genus *Falco* have the post-pubis all in one piece, as we find it in the vast majority of the class, though a thinning of its middle portion may usually be detected.

In the figure of a skeleton of an Eagle presented by Mr. F. Jeffrey Bell (after Milne-Edwards), in his 'Comparative Anatomy and Physiology,' only that portion of the post-pubis is shown which closes the obturator foramen. This is equally true of Sir Richard Owen's figure of the pelvis of one of these birds in his 'Anatomy of Vertebrates' (Vol. II, p. 33, fig. 23).

Quite often it happens that the obturator foramen is closed in by the ligamentous band which connects the free extremity of this anterior portion of the post-pubic element (*opf*) with the ischium. Indeed, the last named author alludes to this, and says that "the shortest pubis is seen in certain Eagles, in which it terminates after forming the lower boundary of the obturator foramen; its extremity there projecting freely, as in fig. 23, *d*, or being joined by ligament to the ischium, as in the Harpy Eagle, in which it is an inch in length, whilst the ilium is six inches long" (*op. cit.*, p. 36).

Unfortunately, I happen not to have the skeleton of an Eagle at hand, but it seems to me, in view of the fact that the genera of Buzzards and Eagles are quite closely allied, the latter birds should possess this free portion of the post-pubic element of the pelvis also. As it is often detached during maceration, it is quite possible that in the course of the preparation of the specimens from which M. Milne-Edwards and Sir Richard Owen's figures were taken, it may have been lost.

As Eagles are quite common in this vicinity, I hope to be able to decide this point, on some future occasion, by dissection of a fresh specimen.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico*, 8th Nov. 1885.

Capture of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) on the Southeast Coast of Florida.—On the 2d of March, 1885, I shot one of these birds, a male, at Cape Sable—the only one noticed. I think its occurrence so far east worthy of note.—N. S. GOSS, *Topeka, Kansas*.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) at Key West.—In a collection of alcoholic specimens of birds made at Key West, Florida, January 15, 1885, by the naturalists of the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' is a specimen of this species (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 102,444). The record should have been made before this, but I had quite forgotten the matter until reminded of it by the above note by Col GOSS.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

The Baltimore Oriole in Massachusetts in November.—On Nov. 15, 1885, I shot a male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), in perfect plumage and condition, while feeding upon frozen apples in an orchard. I send this account of the late appearance of this bird, which usually leaves us in September, thinking that it may be worthy of record in 'The Auk.'—CHAS. E. INGALLS. *East Templeton, Mass.*

Icterus galbula in Connecticut in November.—A young male was shot in my dooryard Nov. 15, 1885. It was in good condition and showed no signs of ever having been caged. It was seen about my grounds several days previous to the above date.—Jno. H. SAGE. *Portland, Conn.*

The Vernacular Name of *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*.—The specific name of this species was chosen in consequence of the supposition, recently proven to be erroneous, that "the summer home . . . is probably the unknown region to the north of the Arctic mainland, since, at the extreme northern point of Alaska [Point Barrow] only the true *P. nivalis* breeds." The American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature decided upon 'Polar Snowflake' as a more suitable vernacular name for the species than that of McKay's Snow Bunting, originally bestowed upon it; but since we now have positive evidence (the nature of which I am not at present at liberty to explain) that its breeding habitat is not polar, and is in fact considerably south of the Arctic Ocean. I would suggest that the species be called McKay's Snowflake. "in memory of Mr. Charles L. McKay, who sacrificed his life in the prosecution of natural history investigations in Alaska, and in whose collections the new species was first noticed." (Cf. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. VII, pp. 68-70.)—ROBERT RIDGWAY. *Washington, D. C.*

Ipswich Sparrow in Texas.—I have in my collection an adult male *Ammodramus princeps* taken at Dallas, Texas, Dec. 10, 1884. I obtained it from Mr. Fred. T. Jencks of Providence, who writes me in regard to it as follows: "The Ipswich Sparrow was purchased from the collector, Mr. Clothrie Pierce, for a Western Grass Finch, and it was so labelled until the day I picked out your series of Sparrows, when I detected its true identity." This largely extends the habitat of this comparatively new species, heretofore only recognized on the sand hills of the Atlantic Coast.—GEO. B. SENNETT. *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Occurrence of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) in Nova Scotia.—A short time ago I forwarded to Mr. Montague Chamberlain of St. John, N. B., a Sparrow for identification, and he has kindly returned it with the intimation that it is an example of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*), a bird which has never before been included in our fauna. I shot the specimen while after Ducks on the Coast at Lawrence-town, near Halifax, about the end of March, 1878, as it was feeding on